

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074801

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT DAKAR 2150 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS 21 MAR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SG
SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENT ON SENEGALESE CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: (A) DAKAR 2012, (B) DAKAR 2027 (USINFO), (C) DAKAR 2035
(AIDAC), (D) DAKAR A-15

1. SUMMARY: THERE WERE FEW SURPRISES IN COMPOSITION OF NEW
SENEGALESE CABINET ANNOUNCED MARCH 15, AND MANY ANNOUNCED
CHANGES INCLUDING MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN RUMORED
FOR A YEAR OR MORE. CABINET DESIGNATIONS SET IN MOTION
SECONDARY ROUND OF CHANGES AMONG TOP CIVIL SERVANTS WHICH IS
STILL IN MOTION, CAUSING SOME DISRUPTION IN CONDUCT OF DAILY
BUSINESS. DEPARTURE OF SUCH FIGURES AS DOUDOU NGOM,
JOSEPH MATHIAM AND BEN MADY CISSE FOLLOWS THEIR
FAILURE TO WIN POPULAR ELECTORAL MANDATE. U.S. INTERESTS DO
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED IN CABINET RESHUFFLE, AND THEY
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HAVE PROBABLY BENEFITTED IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. REF A REPORTED ALIGNMENT OF NEW SENEGALESE CABINET FORMED
AFTER GOVERNING PARTI SOCIALISTE (PS)'S VICTORY IN
FEBRUARY 26 ELECTIONS. REF B OUTLINED MAJOR THEMES OF
CHANGES AND REF C COMMENTED ON IMPLICATIONS FOR USAID OF SHIFTS IN
KEY MINISTRIES, INCLUDING PLAN AND COOPERATION, FINANCE

AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, PROMOTION HUMAINE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT. REF D ACCURATELY ANTICIPATED SEVERAL CHANGES INCLUDED IN RESHUFFLE, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF ASSANE SECK BY BABACAR BA IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AIRGRAM CONCLUDED THAT, DESPITE BA'S PAST REPUTATION AS ALOOF AND INACCESSIBLE, HE HAD MELLOWED OF LATE AND MIGHT WELL PROVE MORE RECEPTIVE TO U.S. VIEWS ON SOME FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS THAN SECK HAS BEEN.

3. CABINET APPOINTMENTS SET IN MOTION SECONDARY ROUND OF MUSICAL CHAIRS WHICH INCLUDES REASSIGNMENT FROM PLAN TO FINANCE OF SECRETARY GENERAL MADIENG DIAKHATE, APPOINTMENT OF ANDRE SONKO, FORMER CHIEF OF BUREAU OF ORGANIZATION AND METHODS, AS GOVERNMENT SECRETARY GENERAL, ASSIGNMENT OF DJIBO KA, MOUSTAPHA NIASSE'S ASSISTANT, TO REPLACE HIM AS DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S CABINET, DESIGNATION OF FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY GENERAL MOMAR TALLA CISSE AS DELEGATE GENERAL FOR TOURISM, AND ASSIGNMENT OF JACQUES DIOUF, PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ADRAO, AS DELEGATE GENERAL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. SEVERAL KEY POSITIONS INCLUDING SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REMAIN VACANT, AND ALL MINISTRIES INVOLVED ARE IN STATE OF TRANSITION WHICH IS DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE TRANSACTION
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CERALLJN MOS ANNOUNCED CHANGES WERE PREDICTABLE AND MANY FULFILLED PROPHECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR A YEAR OR MORE. SOME PUNDITS SEE HAND OF PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF AS HAVING BEEN REINFORCED BY SHIFTS OF OUSMANE SECK AND BABACAR BA AND BY TECHNOCRATIC ORIENTATION OF MOST NEW CABINET MEMBERS. ADRIEN SENGHOR'S SHIFT TO NEWLY CREATED MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT IS BEING CITED AS PREDICTABLE STEP UP FOR PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW, SINCE OTHER MINISTERS WILL BE OBLIGED TO LOOK TO HIM FOR SUPPORT.

5. IMPACT OF INDIVIDUAL SHOWING IN PARTY PRIMARIES AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS WAS AGAIN EVIDENT IN RESHUFFLE. PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD REPORTEDLY PRESSURED CABINET AND SUB-CABINET MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH OR RECLAIM PERSONAL POLITICAL BASES, BUT SOME WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN DOING SO. AMONG THOSE LEAVING CABINET WERE DOUDOU NGOM (REPUDIATED

BY HIS POLITICAL BASE IN UNION MOVEMENT), JOSEPH MATHIAM (WHOSE ATTEMPTED IMPOSITION AS PS LEADER IN OUSSOUYE PROMPTED LOCAL PARTY FAVORITE TO DEFECT TO OPPOSITION WHICH WON LANDSLIDE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION), AND BEN MADY CISSE (FORMERLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PROMOTION HUMAINE, WHO WAS ON PS SLATE HEADED BY ETIENNE CARVALHO WHICH MET DEFEAT IN PARTY CAUCUS IN ZIGUINCHOR). (FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THESE CASES WAS CONTAINED REF D.) NET EFFECT IS TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN THAT POPULAR WILL DOES HAVE INDIRECT BUT DEMONSTRABLE INFLUENCE AT SEVERAL STAGES IN DETERMINING SENEGALESE LEADERSHIP, EVEN IN MANY -- BUT NOT ALL TOP APPOINTIVE POSTS.

6. SENGHOR'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ARE AGAIN EVIDENT IN
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DESIGNATION OF WOMEN TO HOLD TWO NEW PORTFOLIOS. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SPELLED OUT HIS INTENTION THAT THESE POSTS WOULD BE AWARDED TO ONE POLITICIAN (CAROLINE DIOP--MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS) AND ONE PROFESSIONAL (MAIMOUNA KANE--SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT). SENGHOR ALSO HAD TALKED UP HIS COMMITMENT TO BRING YOUTH INTO GOVERNMENT, AND AT LEAST THREE OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS (MOUSTAPHA NIASSE, FRANCOIS BOB AND ROBERT SAGNA) ARE IN THEIR THIRTIES). ON OTHER HAND, SENGHOR'S EFFICIENT FRENCH-BORN MINISTER OF INTERIOR, JEAN COLLIN--ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MOST LOYAL COLLABORATORS--IS IN HIS FOURTEENTH YEAR IN SENEGALESE CABINET.

7. ONE UNANTICIPATED CHANGE WAS REPLACEMENT AS DELEGATE GENERAL OF TOURISM OF MOUSTAPHA FALL, U.S. EDUCATED WHIZ KID (WHO HAD DIRECTED SUCCESSFUL SENEGALESE CAMPAIGN TO TAP AMERICAN TOURIST MARKET). DAKAR DAILY LE SOLEIL SPECULATES THAT FALL'S DEPARTURE IS RELATED TO 1977 LAW WHICH DECLARES SENIOR APPOINTIVE, SUB-MINISTERIAL CIVIL SERVICE POSTS TO BE "INCOMPATIBLE" WITH SEAT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IF THIS PROVISION IS GOING TO BE RIGOROUSLY APPLIED, FALL IS NOT ONLY DEPUTY WHO WILL BE AFFECTED.

8. ON BALANCE, AS DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL IN REFS C AND D, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT U.S. INTERESTS HAVE NOT SUFFERED IN ANY READILY IDENTIFIABLE WAY IN CABINET REALIGNMENT, AND IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS OUR PRESENT GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH SENEGALESE OFFICIALS SHOULD BE EVEN BETTER IN WAKE OF RECENT CHANGES.
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